

12.15 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Drought situation in many States

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
(Midnapore): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported drought conditions in many States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the affected people."

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN):** Sir, Honourable Members will recall the statements made by me on 20th July, 4th and 14th October and 3rd November, 1982 as well as my reply to the debate in this House on drought situation in the country on 14th and 15th October, 1982. The position as it stands today is that drought conditions are reported to be prevailing in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Pondicherry.

These States submitted Memoranda seeking Central assistance for drought on different dates. A total cropped area of 428.73 lakh hectares and a population of 26.16 crore is reported to be affected in these drought affected States.

After receipt of the reports of the Central Teams and approval of High Level Committee on Relief, total ceilings of assistance of Rs. 407.05 crores, which is an all time high figure, were sanctioned. However, no assistance was sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh as

it was felt that the rains in the month of August and September had relieved the situation in the districts reported earlier to be affected by drought. The State Government had also not taken up any relief measures and on expenditure was incurred till the time the Central Team visited the State. Reports of the Central Teams which visited Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been received and will be considered by the High Level Committee on Relief tomorrow. The assistance given to States, inter-alia, includes assistance for drinking water supply, employment generation, gratuitous relief, nutritional diet to children and lactating mothers as well as provision of fodder for cattle and input assistance to small and marginal farmers.

In the context drought relief, the Central Government have introduced a new system of making additional allocations of foodgrains to the States for payment of a part of the wages in kind to labourers employed on relief works executed with Central assistance. These additional allocations of foodgrains are over and above the allocations made for public distribution system and under National Rural Employment Programme.

Supplementary Memoranda have been received from the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Pondicherry. Central Teams shall be visiting the States of Bihar and West Bengal for the second and third time respectively. They are expected to leave shortly. Requests of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Pondicherry are being discussed in a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group on 21st and 22nd March, 1983, to which the representatives of the States will be invited.

It will not be out of place to mention here that vigorous and concerted action programme was launched to increase the Rabi production in the drought affected States. The winter rains have brightened the prospects of the rabi crops.

[Shri Arif Mohammed Khan]

Central Government are also siezed of the problem of drinking water in the affected areas and all-out efforts are being made with the help of Ministries like Works and Housing, Defence, Railways and the State Governments to ensure supply of drinking water to the affected people. Provision has also been made in the sanctions for transportation of water as well, where such contingency arises. In order to help the State Governments to continue their efforts to solve the drinking water problem in a planned perspective, assistance has been given for the extended period upto June, 1983.

Government of India are anxious to ensure proper and effective use of the Central assistance, by the States, keeping in view the severity and intensity of the distress in the different districts. Central Government believe that the only rational way to tackle this calamity is to make district-wise and sector-wise assessment of the problem and to allocate resources accordingly to provide relief to the people. Guidelines in this behalf have been issued to the State Governments, and also for the guidance of the Central Teams and this pattern of relief administration is now being followed. Ministry of Agriculture is also sending follow-up teams to the States to look into the utilisation of the Central assistance. Hon'ble Minister Rao Birendra Singh also intends to visit some of the States as soon as the Parliament has discussed the Demands of my Ministry of Agriculture.

It has been and shall be our endeavour to assist the State Governments in mitigating the rigours of the calamity, caused by drought and other natural calamities to the maximum extent possible.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Narayan Choubey. Only Shri Narayan Choubey's speech will be recorded. Nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Member does not read the rules I can't help it. I am so sorry. Even if you come and sit here, you cannot do it. Please don't disturb. We have to conduct the House according to the rules. I would request Mr. Era Anbarasu to read the rules. If he wants I will lend him a copy.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Every hon. Member must know that the time of the House is precious. This has not been understood.

Now Mr. Choubey.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister has a flavour of complacency. This feeling of complacency is perhaps due to the successful completion of the Asiad and the non-aligned meet. They have spent hundreds of crores of rupees to keep our gardens green, our beautiful parks and gardens; to put up the street lights. You have put up huge 3-star and 5-star hotels on which you have spent crores of rupees. But this is not the picture of our countryside. The picture in our country-side is really grim. The water that is spent to keep our parks beautiful and grass ever-green, is more than what the tribals of Keonjhar get to drink. I don't say that the Minister is like Nero of Rome. When Rome was burning Nero was fiddling. I don't say he is such a type of person. Rishi Bankim Chandra had sung: 'Sujalam, Suphalam, Sashya Shyamalam.' Now it is no *jalam* no *phalam*. Rabindra Nath Tagore sang: *Punjaba Sindhu Gujaratha Maratha; Dravida Utkala Vanga*. So, this is the entire India. The entire India is in the grip of severe drought; there is no doubt about it. I hope the Minister will give proper thought to it and I hope that he will not be complacent. Only in today's *Economic Times*, some facts have appeared. I am sure all the Ministers have gone through it. It has been stated that about 480 lakh hectares of cropped area have been affected due to drought. Your figure is less, maybe you are

*Not recorded.

correct or maybe they are correct, I do not know. A total of 185 districts is in the grip of severe drought and the shortfall of foodgrains for the entire country will be to the tune of 7 million tonnes. Even the rabi crop shortfall will be to the tune of 5 to 8 million tonnes. You have referred to various States where drought conditions are at present prevailing. He has mentioned in his statement about Orissa. The entire region of Orissa which produces 3/4 of foodgrains in the State is under the grip of severe drought. Our party is already leading a very big movement in that State. If the Government does not come to immediate rescue and does not send foodgrains to that region, the situation would go out of control. In Orissa, out of the total blocks of 314, 283 blocks have been affected due to acute drought condition. The Orissa Government have demanded a sum of Rs. 338.36 crores for relief measures from the Centre. Many a time it happens that what we actually demand is not given. There is a big gap between what we actually demand and what they actually give. Again, there is a big gap between what the Government of India sanctions and what actually reaches the area. The condition in Orissa is very serious. The normal production of food in that State is generally 42 lakh tonnes per annum. But this year it is only 28 lakh tonnes. Bolangir, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, districts are in the grip of severe drought. In the newspaper, on 30th October 1982, it was stated that the Tribals are abandoning their children in Keonjhar.

Now, in Kerala, the shortfall in the agricultural production is to the tune of Rs. 25 crores. The average production of paddy was 12 lakh tonnes during 1981-82. This year, it is only 4 to 5 lakh tonnes. There is scarcity of drinking water in that State. Moreover, Kerala was always a surplus State so far as power is concerned. But this is the first time that Kerala is also facing power shortage due to scarcity of water. They are now ask-

ing Andhra Pradesh to supply them power. This is the condition there. Even Mr. O. Lukose, Chairman, Congress(M), has demanded that Kerala should be declared as drought-affected State.

In Madhya Pradesh in Chattisgarh region, is affected with acute drought condition. Out of 45 districts in Madhya Pradesh, 26 districts are in the grip of severe drought. Whatever money has been spent to combat the famine condition in that region, is not at all sufficient. Out of the amount sanctioned, for this purpose, a big chunk is eaten away by certain officials and the political leaders.

In Rajasthan, there has been severe drought affecting many districts for the last 4 to 5 years continuously. The districts of Kota, Bundi, Barmer, Jodhpur are facing famine. About 2043 villages in 25 districts of Rajasthan have been declared as famine-affected areas.

Now, in Tamil Nadu, the condition is very serious. The Tamil Nadu Government have demanded a sum of Rs. 190 crores from the Centre for providing relief to the people in the affected areas. It seems very recently Rao Birendra Singh went to Tamil Nadu for election campaign and he played politics there. He said that the Central Government accepts responsibility of providing rice to the people of Tamil Nadu. Do they not need now? When will they need it if not now? Tamil Nadu is in the grip of a very serious situation. Thanjavur district is called the granary of Tamil Nadu.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Granary of South.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : But people have started migrating even from there. Distress sale of cattle has also already started. In Madras city the people are going to the beach to dig up holes to get some water.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want more information about Madras I can give you. Madras is my constituency. Once in three days water is very graciously being supplied.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Let the Government do something.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am only stating the facts; as a citizen of Madras I get water only once in three days.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: For how many hours?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only for three hours in the morning. When I was there, I could take my bath only on third day.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Don't you agree that the statement is complacent? It does not contain even a single word about Madras.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is for you to ask, I cannot.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Then, in Karnataka only 18 per cent of land under cultivation has received water this time. In 16 out of 19 districts in Karnataka, the rabi crop failure is to the extent of 85 per cent. 3000 villages have no source of water at all.

In Maharashtra there is severe drought in Puri, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Akola, Sangli, Nariket etc. In U.P. 46 out of 57 districts are in the grip of drought. I do not know why nothing has been said about UP in the statement. Is it because Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh has come from there. You can judge the situation from the figures. Ordinarily, the kharif crop in U.P. consists of 120 lakh hectares, this year it is only 28.14 lakh hectares. You can understand the situation, and still they have not given anything to U.P.

About Bihar, my friends will say more but I would only mention that it is in severe drought worst than the 1967 drought.

In Santhal Parganas people had taken a march for food and they were fired at. I have already mentioned about Kerala and Rajasthan.

The situation in West Bengal is very serious. This year the kharif crop failure is to the tune of 16 lakh tonnes.... (Interruptions). In West Bengal, this is the worst drought in the whole of this century. Teams from the centre had gone; we had demanded Rs. 205 crores but we had been given only Rs. 70 crores upto 31-3-1983. Again, the State Government has demanded that the Central Team should pay a visit to the State to assess the situation, and they have demanded Rs. 95.58 crores again to overcome the drought situation, which is still continuing, and it will continue till April, May and June when the Monsoon comes. Our situation will remain grim till that time. The condition of drinking water in various parts of West Bengal is also very very serious, for example in Purulia, a portion of Midnapore district, Bankura and other places. Teams come and go, but nothing happens. Now, I will give you some figures. The Bengal Government gets something different from what you actually allot. We have already complained to Rao Birendra Singh a number of times that what we demand, you allot less than that; and even that much you do not give. I give you the figures in this connection. For the year 1982, which is a year of our drought, the total allotment to us in the month of January was two lakh twenty thousand tonnes and what actually reached us in that month was one lakh seventy thousand tonnes whereas our demand was for three lakh twenty thousand tonnes. Of course, sometimes we may be demanding more and you do not give because you have your own assessment. But at least that much amount which you allot should reach us.

Now, Sir, I will put some questions to the Hon. Minister.

Everybody, including the Hon. Minister, agrees that one of the reason

why the drought situation is gradually becoming a general situation is deforestation. Only the day before yesterday I went through a press report that a fur-like desert is going to grow in South India if deforestation continues as such. It will go on and spread throughout India if the Forest Department Officials and contractors are allowed to do whatever they like. Taking advantage of the deforestation they are adding to their earnings. I would like to know whether a portion of this money will be specifically allotted for afforestation, which alone can save the country from future calamities. If we do that, perhaps that will not give us dividend now, but it will give us dividend in the long run.

Then, Sir, I would like to speak regarding the Central team. It is a pitiable thing that we demand Rs. 500/- crores and they give us Rs. 250 crores. May be we demand more and may be you give us less. But what happens as a result is that the work comes to a standstill. With empty pocket we cannot do any work. Naturally the question is how to solve this problem and keep the momentum of the work going on. Suppose, the Central team does not go how and does not sanction money immediately, all our funds will be exhausted by 31st March. Now they are stating that the Central team is proposing to go to West Bengal and Bihar. Today it is 18th. In that case when will they give us money? So, all our work will come to a halt if other resources are not brought in. Thanks to the Government of West Bengal which does not only depend on the money which has come from the Centre. They have taken resources from other departments and spent at least double the amount that is being given by the Centre to save the situation. So, I would like to know what is the *Modus Operandi* the Government proposes, to avoid this further delay?

Another question is that a very big difference is always found between the figures which the Government gives and what is actually given. The

reality is whatever you give, is not the figure in reality. Therefore, I request that you must give money to all the State Governments enough to meet the situation.

Another question is in regard to corruption. Already there are various press reports about corruptions of various types in this matter. It is our bad luck. A report has come in the Press that in Madhya Pradesh there is a place where Rs. 3/- crores have been spent for 19 irrigation projects already. I have forgotten the name of the place, but I can give its name. Even after spending Rs. 3/- crores, not a single hectare of land has been irrigated. The money for the purpose of irrigation has reached the pockets of some people. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, what measures he is going to take to deal with such corrupt practices. The Hon. Minister must not be lenient in handling such matters. Two more questions, one of which relates to drinking water. In 1982, we discussed the drought situation more than once. In 1983, we have started discussion with drought. Still, Government has not been able to reach drinking water to the people. There is enough water for the pots in Delhi; but there is no drinking water in the various areas of India, including West Bengal. Summar has not yet come. What steps do Government propose to take during this summer, so that drinking water is made available to our people? You should see that efforts are made on a war footing.

Lastly, about cattle. Cattle cannot speak. I can speak, but the cattle cannot. The distress sale of cattle has started. What are you going to do immediately, so that fodder reaches poor people? Already there is a report that in one village in Madhya Pradesh, people there could not pay Rs. 700/- which was due from them towards electricity charges. For six months the people of that village did not get electric power. You can abolish *crorepatis* like Dharam Teja who came to India and has again gone

[Shri Narayan Choubey]

away. I saw it in the Press: Government has been kind enough to waive Rs. 9 crores which was due from him. But what are you going to do about his fodder problem?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN:

The Calling Attention relates to the drought situation in various States, and the assistance provided by the Government of India for relief purposes. With your permission, Sir, I would like to confine myself to the subject-matter. I would not go into the other questions which are not related to the subject.

A specific question has been asked about the assistance given to the State of Orissa. We received two memoranda from that State: one in the month of August, and then in November. A total sum of Rs. 33.34 crores to be spent upto June 1983 has been sanctioned for Orissa. In the first memorandum the demand was for Rs. 57.93 crores, and in the second for Rs. 329.17 crores. Central Government does not have endless resources, and the entire country, almost all the States are in the grip of drought. We don't have limitless resources. There are certain guidelines and certain norms. The assessment sent by the State Governments is considered by a high-level committee, a committee of experts and inter Ministerial groups, and then they act according to the guidelines and established norms. Then a decision is taken on the money which has to be sanctioned for relief work. So, this is the amount which Central Government has sanctioned.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: There is a glaring disparity. The demand was for Rs. 386 crores, and the amount sanctioned is Rs. 33 crores.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Choubey would have been fair in

complaining of disparity if it was so only in the case of West Bengal. It was not so in the case of West Bengal alone. That is what he said while drawing our attention. The same is the case in almost all the other States. The demand comes for assistance from the Central Government. Then we make an assessment of their demand.

Allocation of fund is done keeping in view the resources which are at our disposal, which are available to us. Secondly, in the case of Orissa, not only for drought but for meeting out the relief work after the cyclone, Rs. 56.54 crores were sanctioned, for flood relief, it was Rs. 113.95 crores, and then for expenditure upto June 1983, another Rs. 22.97 crores have been sanctioned. It is not only under one head but under other heads also. Government have sanctioned money for relief work.

Another specific question has been raised about Tamilnadu. We received a memorandum from Tamilnadu on 24th January, 1983. It is for the hon. member to decide whether we have delayed it or it was his State Government which submitted the memorandum very late. Normally, memoranda seeking assistance for drought relief are submitted from October to November, but they submitted a memorandum on 24th January, 1983. Then we tried to expedite the whole process, but the State Government was keen that we should delay the visit of the central team since they were busy in some other work. For some reasons, we cannot seek explanation from them on that ground.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): What is the reasons for that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At least your name should be there in the calling attention.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I think it is better if the question is addressed to the State Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You raise all these questions on the platform, not here. You deal with them outside.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: The visit of the Central team was delayed on the specific request of the State Government. However, now a report has been submitted and tomorrow a high level committee will be meeting and sending its recommendation, and then we can say that the whole thing is in the final stage, and the decision will be taken very soon.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do justice to Tamilnadu.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: We try to do justice with all the States.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): How much money extra do you want?

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: The question is whether he wants to do injustice to West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For my State, I cannot request him like that.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: He does not want justice, he wants favour.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: A specific question has also been raised about the State of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR (Durgapur): He should be impartial to every State.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are in favour of West Bengal. We are sending a team for the third time to West Bengal.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR: Thank you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): You got my letter.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: A question has also been asked about the State of Uttar Pradesh saying that though the State was in the grip of drought and large area, large population was affected, no assistance was provided by the Central Government. I think, again, I won't say the fault lies with whom, but the memorandum was submitted by Uttar Pradesh in the month of July.

Anticipating that August and September will be dry months and anticipating that there will be drought and there will be paucity of water, a central team went to those parts of Uttar Pradesh, but the State was instead of drought, in the grip of floods! However, the central team visited those parts. But in the meantime they submitted another memorandum for flood assistance.

SHR B. D. SINGH (Phulpur): In Western U.P. there was drought and in Eastern U.P. there was flood.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I am coming to that point, if you permit me.

Before the central team could go there to visit the State, another memorandum, seeking aid flood relief was also received by the Central Government and both the memoranda were taken into consideration. Then central team, when they visited Uttar Pradesh, they were also of the opinion that though there were floods at that time in Uttar Pradesh and yet some parts of U.P. were still drought hit areas. The central team wanted to visit those areas but the team came to the conclusion that till the date when they visited the State, there was no information available with the State Government, about the areas affected by the drought and the population affected by the drought and in fact no spade-work had been done till that date. No expenditure had been incurred by the States also. I am making this point because we are not responsible for it, if we could not make any sanctions for Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): This is how Congress(I) Governments are functioning. That is how the U.P. Government is functioning, and you still talk of West Bengal. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I will go... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Please do come, but come through Bihar.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: As regards West Bengal, I think Mr. Choubey will admit that the Central Government has been giving very generous assistance to them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Deserving assistance.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Very well. Thank God, you are not complaining of any discrimination or unfair treatment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you have completed all your points.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: One point I want to make. That is that when the Central team visited West Bengal, it was found that 70 per cent of the money sanctioned for drinking water in Purnia and Bangura districts was lying unutilised. We considered memorandum in which they spelt out the sanction given by the ceiling on expenditure, as given by the Central Government, and yet the implementation work or spending these funds is to be done by the State Government and it is their duty.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Mr. P.J. Kurien,

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has mentioned about Rajasthan.

AN HON. MEMBER: I want to...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can see that the money is spent before March. What I mean is you can carry this message and see that the money

is spent. He is only helping you. He is asking you to spend the money.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ask your State to spend the money immediately before 31 March.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN (Adoor): Shri Choubey has already referred to the very serious nature of the situation prevailing in various parts of the country. So, I need not repeat what he has already mentioned. I am confining myself to my own State and my neighbouring State.

In the statement which has been read out by the hon. Minister, nothing has been mentioned about Kerala. There is a very serious situation there. Among the States suffering from drought conditions, Kerala is one of them. But what assistance has been sought by the Kerala Government for drought relief work in the State and what money has been given, nothing is mentioned here. Now the situation in Kerala is very serious. Kerala is known as the land of rivers, lakes and natural streams. It is considered to be evergreen because of abundance of water and enough of monsoon every year on the west of the Western Ghat. But the present situation in Kerala is quite different. The rivers and canals are drying up. Even wells are drying up fast. Now the question of not getting drinking water has arisen in Kerala. In Cochin and Trivendrum the Municipal Corporations have already introduced some restrictions on the supply of drinking water. Almost all the districts in Kerala have been affected by drought. According to the statement made by the Chief Minister in today's press, 800 villages spreading all over the State covering all the districts have been seriously affected and 600 villages have already been declared by the State Government as drought affected areas. Due to very drastic fall in the water level in the reservoirs, Kerala, which was a surplus State in producing power and which was supplying power to your State and also to Karnataka, has

now been forced to impose first 20 per cent cut on high tension powers users, which was later on raised to 40 per cent. It was recently extended to the small scale industrial sector also. The Electricity Minister of the State has recently said that unless monsoon comes, there will be no relief. The drought situation is very serious particularly in the two main granaries of the State i.e. Kuttanad in Alleppey and Palghat area in Palghat district. These are the two rice bowls. These rice bowls, these areas have totally dried up. Green patches have disappeared due to scorching heat and lack of water 50 to 75 per cent production, not only of paddy but also of perennial crops like rubber, cardamom, coconut, arcanut, etc. has been affected. 50 to 70 per cent production is estimated to have been lost. That is the situation in Kerala. Over and above this, we are a deficit State. If such an extent of loss in the production of paddy is happening in the State, then we have to depend more and more on the Centre since we are a deficit State and considerable cultivable area of our State is utilised in the production of commercial crops, most of which are exported and which bring valuable foreign exchange. We have been demanding 1,30,000 tonnes of foodgrains, of rice, every month in order to sustain our public distribution system. You will agree that perhaps Kerala is the only State where the public distribution system has been running very smoothly and satisfactorily as a result of which the general price rice has been curbed in the State. But for the last several months, the situation has gone out of control because of lack of supply of rice. The Centre has reduced its supply from 1,30,000 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes. (Interruptions).

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Chengalputtu): Because Congress came into power,

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: We used to get rice from the hon. Member's State also but since his own State is having serious drought condition, we are not getting rice from Tamil Nadu also. We

are in a very very tight position. Unless the Centre comes and supplies us with adequate quantity of rice the food situation in the state would become worse.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question now.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: I want to put some questions now. I want to put a general question first. The general question is that the drought situation has been prevailing in many parts of the country in the last two-three years. Last year also in certain parts of the country, in U.P., Bihar, parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, etc., the situation was serious. A query was made by my hon. friend about U.P. that they had requested the Centre for drought relief and the hon. Minister had replied that the Centre was prepared to send team but then the situation became different. Instead of drought, it was flood. This situation is there in a number of States like U.P., Bihar, etc. In one part of the State there will be drought, in another part there will be flood. What I want to ask is whether the Central Government has any plan to find a permanent solution to face such a situation?

SHRI ERA ENBARASU: The Ganga-Cauveri canal would provide the permanent solution to this problem.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: What is the long term plan? Of course, you have got the monitoring system. What is the purpose of monitoring? Every year you go on monitoring. It has become a permanent feature, just like floods and drought have become a permanent feature. What is the permanent solution to this problem? Secondly, understand that you have worked out some contingency plan to meet the natural calamities. But for implementing the contingency plan it takes so much time. First, the State has to make a report, then the Central team visits the State and makes a report.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It took no time in the case of Kerala; like this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): That gesture of the hand will not come in the proceedings; it is difficult to record it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is only for his information.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: Secondly, certain relief work is taking place in the drought-affected areas and the Centre is providing some assistance. I have received reports from various regions that the workers employed in relief work are not given even the minimum wages fixed by the State Government; in fact, they are paid much lower than the minimum wages. For example, in Rajasthan the generally prevailing wage rate is Rs. 9. But, in some places, they are getting only Rs. 2 per day. What was the nature and extent of assistance sought by the Government of Kerala for drought relief and what assistance has been given? According to some reports the Central assistance given to Kerala is about Rs. 9 crores or Rs. 9.5 crores.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister will give the figures.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: There is also a report that it was diverted for some other purpose, to make adjustment for the overdraft with the Reserve Bank. What is the actual position?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: We received a memorandum from the State of Kerala on the 3rd January 1983 and the final decision on the ceiling of expenditure on drought relief was taken on 14th February 1983. The ceiling was fixed at Rs. 4.10 crores. The amount may look small but the population affected in Kerala, as reported by the State Government was 16 lakhs and the area affected is one lakh hectares. This ceiling of Rs. 4.10 crores is for 1982-83. Another ceiling of Rs. 5.31 crores has been fixed for expenditure upto May, 1983. For supply of water for drinking purposes, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned and for employment generation Rs. 4.55 lakhs

was sanctioned. As far as the complaints about non-payment to labourers go, again the implementation or expenditure of this amount rests entirely with complaint is made to us, I assure the hon. Member that we shall look into it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Madhukar....

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Mr. Madhukar. You cannot put any question. You need not reply....

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not record anything. You sit down. Should you not allow your own colleague whose name has come in the ballot? It is not the way. Please don't record. Please sit down. I am not permitting you. You please sit down. I am telling you time and again it is not the way. This I will not tolerate. Please sit down....

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Mr. Balan, if you cannot know that you should implicitly obey the Chair, you cannot be a successful Parliamentarian. I am sorry. You sit down. Everything should be done according to the rules.

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर : (मोतीहारी) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री चौबे जी ने सारे देश के विषय में कहा है, मैं भी जानता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में 26 करोड़ लोग आज अकाल से पीड़ित हैं। किन इलाकों का नाम श्री चौबे और श्री कोडियान ने लिया है, उनके अलावा मैं बिहार की ओर आपका ध्यान मुखातिब करना चाहता हूँ।

बिहार के 32 जिलों में 24 जिले अकाल पीड़ित हैं और इसमें 387 प्रखंड अकाल से पीड़ित हैं। और जिलों को लिया जाये तो पूर्वी चम्पारन, सवाल परगना, मुंगेर, रांची, रोहतास, सिंहभूम,

भागलपुर, नालन्दा, गया, पलामू, समस्तीपुर हजारीबाग, औरंगाबाद, सासाराम, नवादा, पटना वगैरह सब अकाल से पीड़ित है; स्थिति यह है कि केवल गोपालगंज में एक करोड़ क्विंटल गन्ना सूख गया है। गोपालगंज का इलाका गंडक प्रोजेक्ट में पड़ता है। गंडक फ़ोजेक्ट का काम नहीं हो रहा है, वहां पर सिंचाई की सुविधा नहीं दी गई है इसलिये सूखाड़ है। इसके चलते धान, रबी और अगहन मास में जो मकई होती है, ये सब फसलें बर्बाद हो गई हैं।

हम लोग इस बारे में क्या कहें, बिहार विधान सभा में कांग्रेस आई के सदस्यों ने भी कहा है कि बिहार को अकाल ग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषित करे, लेकिन बिहार की सरकार ऐसी है, जिसे आप खुद जानते हैं, बहुत भ्रष्ट सरकार है, उसे हटाना चाहिये। हम पिछले डेढ़ वर्ष से अभियान चला रहे हैं। वहां 4146 गांवों में अभी भी पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है। रिग मशीनें लगी हैं। 500 ट्यूबवेल खोदने की उनकी क्षमता है लेकिन 4146 गांवों में पानी की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। पता नहीं आपने क्या मूल्यांकन किया है लेकिन बिहार सरकार में जो भ्रष्टाचार फैला हुआ है, और मुख्य मंत्री के जो कुछ गुण लोग हैं वही उसका फायदा उठा रहे हैं, और सही रूप में राहत का काम नहीं चल रहा है—इसलिये केरल, वेस्ट बंगाल, तमिलनाडु और राजस्थान में जो अकाल की भयंकरता है, उससे कम भयंकरता बिहार में नहीं है लेकिन वहां की सरकार की और यहां की सरकार भी अपने कानों में तेल डालकर बैठी हुई है।

मैं आपके द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी से कुछ प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा। बिहार की सरकार ने आपसे कितनी सहायता की मांग की है, आपने जो मूल्यांकन किया है

उसके अनुसार आपने कितना दिया है और आगे कितना देने जा रहे हैं ताकि बिहार के अकाल पीड़ित क्षेत्रों में कोई भी आदमी भूख से न मर सके।]

पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था करने के सम्बन्ध में आप जो सहायता दे रहे हैं, जितना आपने एलान भी किया है, उसके संबंध में क्या गारन्टी है कि भ्रष्टाचार तथा अफसरों को लूट के चलते सही मांगों में गांवों तक पानी पहुंच सकेगा।

बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश तथा अन्य इलाकों में सब स्वायत्त वाटर जमीन के नीचे के पानी की जो क्षमता है, उसका पूरा इस्तेमाल करने के लिये कौन से उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ताकि परमानेंटली अकाल पीड़ित क्षेत्रों में ऐसा परिवर्तन कर दिया जाये कि वहां कभी अकाल न पड़े?

इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि आप कजमशन लोन कितना देने जा रहे हैं जिसके द्वारा अकाल पीड़ित क्षेत्रों के लोगों के लिये कम से कम दो जून रोटी की व्यवस्था हो सके?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि एन आर ई पी के अंतर्गत बिहार सरकार ने आपसे कितना लोन मांगा है और कितना आप देने जा रहे हैं? साथ ही केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से क्या गारन्टी की व्यवस्था की गई है जिसके जरिये अकाल पीड़ित क्षेत्रों में एक भी आदमी भूख से नहीं मरने पायेगा? इसके अलावा अकाल से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित वर्ग खेत मजदूर है और उनको काम नहीं मिल रहा है अतः उनको काम देने के लिये आप क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री अतिरिक्त मोहम्मद खां : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, पहले तो मैं माननीय सदस्यों को यह जानकारी देना चाहूंगा कि

[श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खां]

पूर बिहार राज्य को अकाल पीड़ित घोषित कर दिया गया है, केवल उन क्षेत्रों को छोड़कर जहाँ पर सिंचाई की व्यवस्था है। (व्यवधान)

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर: पूर्वी चम्पारन जिले में भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के सेक्रेटरी ने बयान दिया है कि मधुबन तथा अन्य बहुत से क्षेत्र अकालग्रस्त हैं इसलिये आप स्पेसिफिकली बताइये कि कौन-कौन से जिले घोषित किये गये हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खां : मैं जो जानकारी दे रहा हूँ वह हमें राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त हुई है। राज्य सरकार ने जिलों में केवल उन क्षेत्रों को छोड़कर जिनमें सिंचाई की निश्चित व्यवस्था है, बाकी सभी जिलों को अकाल पीड़ित घोषित कर दिया है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अकालग्रस्त या अभावग्रस्त ?

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खां : जी हाँ, अभावग्रस्त। आपने ठीक कहा है, मैं अपने आपको ठीक करने के लिये तैयार हूँ। मुझे सही करने के लिये आपको बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद। बिहार सरकार ने पहला जापन 8-9-1982 को दिया था, जिस पर 25 करोड़ रुपये सहायता करने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार ने स्वीकृत किया। इसके अलावा दूसरा जापन 2 मार्च, 1983 को मिला है, जो कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचाराधीन है। इस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा टीम उन अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्रों का दौरा करने के लिये जाने वाली है - मामला विचाराधीन है। इस पर भी जल्दी ही निर्णय होने की संभावना है ?

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर : कब भेज-एगा ?

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खां : प्रोसेस में है।

देर नहीं लगेगी हमारी तरफ से। जल्दी से जल्दी करने की कोशिश की जाती है। लेकिन जो तरीका है, कायदा है, नियम है, उसी के अनुसार ही काम को आगे बढ़ायेगे ?

... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not reply to him, reply only to Shri Madhukar. This is an important problem. You should have asked for a general discussion. Had you asked for a general discussion, everyone of you could have participated or could have been in a position to ask questions. Or you could have asked for discussion under Rule 193. Now what can I do? Under Calling Attention I have to go according to the rules,

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खां : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य जिस दल के बारे में पूछ रहे थे, मैं उनको बतलाना चाहूँगा कि वह दल बना दिया गया है और वह 21 मार्च, को बिहार का दौरा करने के लिये जा रहा है। एन आर ई पी के संबंध में जो पूछा गया है, यह प्रश्न दूसरे मंत्रालय से संबंधित है और इस प्रश्न में सीधा उस का संबंध नहीं है, फिर भी हम जो सहायता देते हैं उस सहायता में एम्प्लायमेंट जनरेशन का भी हिंड होता है ऐसा काम करने के लिये जिससे रोजगार मिल सके, लेकिन रुपये को खर्च करना और कार्यान्वयन का काम प्रदेश सरकार का ही है। वह उन्हीं को देखना होता है।

एक प्रश्न यह भी पूछा गया है कि बिहार सरकार ने कितनी मांग की है ? बिहार सरकार ने अपने पहले जापन में 234 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की थी और दूसरे जापन में 74 करोड़ 57 लाख रुपये की मांग की है। मैं समझता हूँ कि बिहार सरकार ने अपने एक्सीमेंट के मुताबिक पैसा मांगा था, उसी के हिसाब

से हमने भी अपनी गाइड लाइन्स के हिसाब से फैसला किया है। जहां तक स्टारवेशन के संबंध में निश्चित प्रश्न पूछा गया है इस संबंध में मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि प्रदेश सरकार से उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार पूरे प्रदेश में कहीं इस प्रकार की कोई घटना नहीं हुई है। इसके अलावा भी बिहार प्रदेश सरकार ने ग्राम पंचायत के पास खाद्यान्न की एक मात्रा उपलब्ध कराई है, उनके लिये जो अपने साधन नहीं जुटा सकते हैं। ऐसी कोई सूचना हमारे पास नहीं है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : हमने अब जो तरीका अपनाया है, यह वह है कि हमारी टीम इस बात का भी जायजा लेती है कि हर एक जिले में कितना-कितना नुकसान हुआ है और इस बात के लिये एह्तियात बरतती है कि नुकसान के हिसाब से प्रेपोजेन्ट जो एससमेंट है, खर्च किया जाये। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की टीम 21 मार्च, को बिहार प्रदेश में जा रही है। मेरी आनरेबिल मੈम्बर्स से दरखास्त है कि यदि कहीं अपने हल्के और अपने जिले की कोई बात हमारी टीम के नजर में नहीं आती है, तो वे टीम के नोटिस में ला सकते हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि हर जिले को कुछ न कुछ इन्साफ के साथ मिले। पहले यह तरीका नहीं होता था। हमने यह नया तरीका अपनाया है।

श्री कमला निश्र मधुकर : आप उनको डायरेक्टिवज दें।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को लिखते हैं कि आनरेबिल पार्लियामेंट मेम्बर्स को जब हमारी टीम जाती है, उस इलाके में इतिला दें जहां सूखा पड़ा है और फलूड आया है। हम राज्य सर-

कारों को लिखते हैं, लेकिन अगर कहीं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ऐसा नहीं करती है तो मैं आपसे दरखास्त करूंगा कि आप उसमें दिलचस्पी लें ताकि हमारा इन्तजाम और बहतर हो सके।

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास (भीलवाड़ा) : हमें मालूम ही नहीं होता है कि आप की टीम कब और कहां जा रही है। हम से सम्पर्क नहीं करते हैं।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : इस टीम की तारीख मैंने बतला दी है। दूसरी जगह जायेगी तो मैं इतिला दे दूंगा।

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are all aware that our country has to face different natural calamities. Some of the States have faced cyclones, some floods and most of them drought. There are certain States which have to face all the three. There are certain States which have to face two of them and there are certain States which have to face drought only.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is he going to give to the States which are involved in all the three natural calamities—cyclone, floods and drought? If they are involved in two, what relief is he going to grant to those people who are already finished by flood or by cyclone in addition to drought?

Sir, from the very inception of our Planning, we have been trying to draft Plans which are short-term as well as long-term. As far as cyclone was concerned, we have seen at the Koteswaran Committee was appointed and that certain recommendations were also made to the Government by it. Some of the recommendations have been implemented by some States. But some of the recommendations have not been properly implemented by some other States and that is why, we find that

(Shri Uttam Rathod)

these States are affected most. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us if they have any monitoring agency to see what action has been taken properly as far as cyclone is concerned? As far as flood and drought are concerned, we have clubbed these things together. The irrigation systems have been planned in such a way that they would protect us from floods and at the same time they would also irrigate our land so that we can produce more foodgrains in our country. We were in great need of foodgrains. We imported foodgrains. Therefore, naturally we thought that we must have big projects so that we could irrigate our land immediately and get the return. It was a very good idea.

But now this time, we start rethinking about the whole process when we have finished nearly 1,500 major projects. There is an article recently published by Mr. Singh Deo, ex-Minister of Irrigation from Madhya Pradesh. He is asking are we going to finish all the major dam-sites during our generation? Are we not going to leave any site for the future generation? These big dams create several problems. As a Member of Parliament, I have seen that they create deforestation and silting. We thought that the Bhakra Nangal dam would be completely silted in 600 years or 500 years' time. But we have been finding that in 30 years, it has been silted to the tune of one-third of the whole proportion. Would it be possible to have the benefit of this dam even for more than 100 years? If that is so, we have to rethink and re-plan everything. That is why, I suggest that instead of going in for major dams, let us have medium and minor dams. Even for medium dams, you have to go to the Central Government. The Central Water and Power Commission takes time and it delays our progress. So, I will suggest that immediate sanction should be given to them and then, small projects should be allowed to be taken up and the Central Government should give them money.

In Manipur State, we have seen that the people themselves have constructed small tanks and canals and everything has been managed by them. They do not have the Government officials to do it. Those societies which manage these tanks and canals are not accepted as cooperative societies but still they are functioning for ages together. In Maharashtra, we have 'PHAD' system in Nasik and Dhulia districts. This has been working for the last two centuries where the canal water is taken by the beneficiaries themselves. The canals are rectified, constructed and repaired by the beneficiaries themselves. This deletes the middlemen, the Government servants, who try to delay the projects, create hell for the people and take benefit out of it.

There is another thing the DPA Programme. But I am sorry to say that as far as the DPA Programme is concerned, the hon. Minister and his Department has not paid any attention to the problems of Maharashtra. We had given them a list of drought prone areas. In the region of Marathwada, in Maharashtra, we find that only certain areas, certain districts, were included in the programme. The most affected area, that is, Usmanabad district, in Maharashtra was completely left out. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, Rao Birendra Singh or his assistant, whether he has ever consulted Mr. Shivraj Patil who hails from that area to find out whether that is a drought-prone area or not and what is the state of affairs in that area.

Another question which I would like to ask is this. When the *annewari* goes below 4 annas or 6 annas, they declare it as a drought area; they give every help; they open works; the labour potential is created; they give them shelter; they give them fodder; they provide drinking water and everything. But there are certain areas where the crop yield is better. As you are aware, the crop requires water or rain only for a specific period, for 2 months or 2½ months, and then it

does not require water. If you want to retain drinking water, you must have subsequent rains. In many cases, it does not happen. That is how we find Madras in the grip of scarcity of drinking water, that is how we find Rajasthan and Maharashtra in the grip of scarcity of drinking water. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to give any aid to the State Governments where such areas do exist. These are large areas which are not included in the drought areas. These are areas where *annewari* may be more than 8 annas. But there is no drinking water. The people are actually carrying drinking water by trucks and bullock-carts. The number in Maharashtra has increased during the last one month from 500 to 1200.

These are the three questions which I would like to ask the hon. Minister and I would request him to reply to them.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Firstly, the hon. Member has asked about areas suffering from cyclone, floods and drought together. Normally, the practice is that the State Government submits respective memoranda on drought or flood or cyclone. Then, it is considered by an inter-Ministerial group, by a high level committee, and a view is taken and the decision is taken according to the guidelines and the norms fixed. As I said earlier, in the case of many States, we have given them assistance under drought relief works, under flood relief works, for meeting the expenses....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These are being granted separately.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Yes, Sir, separately.

As regards the other suggestions made by the hon. Member, the House has on earlier occasions discussed in detail the long-term plans to fight floods or to face drought effectively. We have taken note of whatever suggestions has hon. Member has made and we shall pass on those suggestions to the Minis-

tries concerned. Mainly the suggestions concern the Irrigation Ministry. We shall pass them on to the Ministry of Irrigation.

About the middlemen, the policy of the Government of India is not to involve any middleman as far as the relief works under any scarcity conditions are concerned. If any specific complaint is made or something is brought to our notice, we shall certainly take up the matter with the State Governments.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: What about left-out drought prone areas in the region of Marathwada, in Maharashtra? What about scarcity of drinking water in certain areas in Maharashtra? Rajasthan is also facing the same problem. What have you done about it?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: That is a separate programme under the Ministry of Rural Development. We are concerned here with relief given under drought conditions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to the next item. (*Interruptions*).

13.35 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4(3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."